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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,007	09/22/2003	Nathalie Jager Lezer	05725.1238-00	1694

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EXAMINER

VENKAT, JYOTHSNA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/665,007	Applicant(s) JAGER LEZER, NATHALIE	
	Examiner JYOTHSNA A. VENKAT Ph. D	Art Unit 1615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-100 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-100 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 41-48 are, drawn to a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, rigid fibres and at least one compound chosen from film-forming polymers and waxes, wherein the composition has a thixotropic plastic behavior, wherein the composition comprises an aqueous medium classified in class 424, subclass 401.
- II. Claims 46-67 are, drawn to a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, rigid fibres and at least one compound chosen from film-forming polymers and waxes, wherein the composition has a thixotropic plastic behavior, wherein the composition comprises a liquid fatty phase classified in class 514, subclass + depending on the nature of the fatty phase.
- III. Claims 97-99 are, drawn to a cosmetic method for making up and caring for keratinous materials comprising applying to keratinous materials a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, substantially rectilinear rigid fibres and at least one compound chosen from film-forming polymers and waxes, wherein the composition has a thixotropic plastic behavior *or* a method for obtaining a homogenous deposit on keratinous materials, comprising applying to the keratinous materials a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, substantially rectilinear rigid fibres and at least one

Art Unit: 1615

compound chosen from film-forming polymers and waxes, wherein the composition has a thixotropic plastic behavior, classified in class 424, subclass 70.7.

- IV. Claim 100 is, drawn to a method for obtaining a lengthening effect of eyelashes comprising, applying to the eyelashes a composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, substantially rectilinear rigid fibres and at least one compound chosen from film-forming polymers and waxes, wherein the composition has a thixotropic plastic behavior, classified in class 424, subclass 70.7.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II and III-IV are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product. See MPEP § 806.05(h). In the instant case the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with polyamide gelling agent.

Inventions I and II are directed to distinct products. The related inventions are distinct if the (1) the inventions as claimed are either not capable of use together or can have a materially different design, mode of operation, function, or effect; (2) the inventions do not overlap in scope, i.e., are mutually exclusive; and (3) the inventions as claimed are not obvious variants. See MPEP § 806.05(j). In the instant case, the inventions as claimed do not overlap in scope. Composition, which has aqueous phase, is distinct and separate from the composition having

Art Unit: 1615

fatty phase. It is an undue search burden to examine both the products in one single application since art anticipating or rendering obvious aqueous composition would not anticipate or render obvious fatty phase composition. Furthermore, the inventions as claimed do not encompass overlapping subject matter and there is nothing of record to show them to be obvious variants.

Although there are no provisions under the section for “Relationship of Inventions” in MPEP § 806.05 for inventive groups that are related to *different methods*, restriction is deemed proper because the methods appear to constitute patentable distinct inventions for the following reasons: Groups III-IV encompass methods that are distinct functionally and are not required one for the other. Groups III-IV utilize a common product, but comprise substantively different method steps and achieve different goals. Therefore search and examination of all the methods along with the product and another product and method of uses in one patent application would result in an undue burden, since the search for the two methods are not co-extensive.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the

Art Unit: 1615

inventions have acquired a separate status in the art due to their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained.

Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Claims 1-40 and 68-96 link(s) inventions I and II. The restriction requirement between the linked inventions is **subject to** the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 1-40 and 68-96. Upon the indication of allowability of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions **shall** be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise requiring all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be rejoined and fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104 **Claims that require all the limitations of an allowable linking claim** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior

Art Unit: 1615

to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

Applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, the allowable linking claim, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Election of Species

If applicants elect any group, they are further required to elect single disclosed species belonging to wax or film forming polymer.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: belonging to at least one compound, which can be wax or film forming polymers. The wax can be any wax of claim 80. The film-forming polymer can be vinyl polymers, or acrylic polymers, or polyurethanes, or polyesters, or polyamides, or polyureas, or cellulosic polymers.

The above compound, depending on the nature of wax or film-forming polymer can represent numerous patentably distinct compounds. It is an undue search burden to examine all the waxes and all the film-forming polymers belonging to “at least one compound”.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently claims 1, and 94-100 are generic.

Art Unit: 1615

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. *An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.*

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103 (a) of the other invention.

Art Unit: 1615

Election of Species

If applicants elect group any group, they are further required to elect single disclosed species belonging to rigid fibers.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: belonging to rigid fibers. Rigid fibers depending on the nature of the fiber can represent numerous patentably distinct compounds since the fiber can be formula I or the fiber can be formula I and can also have repeating units, which can be formulae II-IV, and depending on the nature of the variables can be numerous patentably distinct compounds. It is an undue search burden to examine all the fibers.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently claims 1, and 94-100 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. *An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.*

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Art Unit: 1615

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Due to complexity of the action, examiner submitted the Election Restriction in writing in lieu of calling applicant's attorney.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

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Art Unit: 1615

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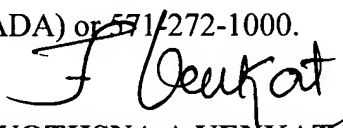
Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JYOTHSNA A. VENKAT Ph. D whose telephone number is 571-272-0607. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30-7:30:1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MICHAEL WOODWARD can be reached on 571-272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1615

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571/272-1000.


JYOTHSNA A VENKAT Ph. D
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1615